

EFFECT OF WEATHER ON CROPS AND FARMING OPERATIONS, JUNE, 1927

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General summary.—Droughty conditions were relieved in the Southeast the first part of the month, but some areas still had need of moisture, especially southern Florida. Further rains in the central valley States delayed farm work, but conditions were better in the Lake region and the Northwest. Growth of vegetation was slow over the northern part of the country because of the prevailing cool weather, but higher temperatures in the far Northwest promoted better growth of crops, while in the South excellent growth was made wherever moisture was sufficient.

During the second decade marked improvement in weather conditions was noted, notwithstanding continued coolness in the northern sections and in the interior valleys, where corn planting had become seriously delayed because of preceding wet weather. Most of the period was fair and work was pushed. In the Southwest widespread and generous rains near the middle of the period brought relief from the severe drought and unusually favorable conditions prevailed in the Northern States west of the Rocky Mountains where vegetation responded favorably.

Aside from slow growth of warm-weather crops, because of continued subnormal temperatures, in the area from the Ohio Valley northward, the weather during the last decade was decidedly better than had previously prevailed for both progress of crops and farm work. In the Atlantic Coast States conditions were generally favorable, but in the Southeast additional rainfall hindered cultivation, resulting in considerable complaint of grassy fields; dry weather continued in southern Florida. In the Wheat Belt the bright, sunny and practically rainless weather produced ideal conditions for harvest.

Small grains.—In Kentucky, Indiana, and Illinois, conditions were mostly unfavorable for best development of winter wheat during the first decade because of too much moisture and cloudy weather, but elsewhere in the main producing sections progress was mostly very good. The crop was spotted in much of the Southwest, but continued very good in the eastern half of Kansas and excellent reports were received from Nebraska. The weather was favorable during the first part of the second decade, but much rust was reported in parts of central sections. Winter wheat ripened slowly in the Great Plains. Frequent rains delayed harvest the latter part of the second decade in the southern portion of the belt with wheat ready to cut north to central Kansas. During the last decade harvest made excellent advance in practically all portions of the belt with cutting advancing in the East to Maryland and in the West to northern Kansas. Spring wheat had mostly favorable weather during the entire month and made good progress generally with the crop beginning to head in early fields of North Dakota at the close. Oats did well in most northern areas and, except for some spottedness in parts of the interior valleys, condition was fair to good. Rice and flax advanced favorably and some buckwheat had been sown in New York at the close.

Corn.—Seeding was delayed the first part of the month, due to continued rains and wet soil, in much of the central portion of the belt. In eastern and south-

eastern Iowa, central and southern Illinois, and in much of Indiana and Kentucky planting was especially delayed. The latter part of the first decade, however, had much better weather conditions and excellent progress was made in those sections where work had been seriously delayed. Rain again interrupted planting about the middle of the second decade, but seeding had been largely completed in many places in Ohio, was mostly finished in Kentucky, and fairly well advanced in the West. During the latter part of the second decade more favorable weather again prevailed and considerable planting was accomplished, but persistent cool weather resulted in poor germination and growth. Weather conditions during the last decade caused considerable improvement to the corn crop, although it continued too cool for good growth. In Iowa the state of the crop varied greatly with some just planted and not up in the southeast to laid by in some fields of the southwest. At the close of the month warm, dry weather was generally needed from the central and northern Mississippi Valley States eastward.

Cotton.—Beneficial rains occurred in much of the eastern and the western portions of the Cotton Belt the first part of the month and in the east and southeast fair to excellent progress was made. In central portions of the belt advance was poor to excellent, but in Oklahoma generally good stands and progress were reported with planting about completed. Progress was generally good in Texas. During the second decade the weather was mostly favorable, except for some complaint of grassy fields, due to frequent showers. Progress was still fairly good to excellent in eastern portions, but weevil activity was reported from parts of this area and also in central districts. In western portions cotton made fair to very good advance. There was considerable complaint of weevil activity in southeastern portions during the last decade, extending west as far as the Mississippi Valley and locally in Arkansas and Oklahoma. Continued rains prevented needed cultivation in the lower Mississippi Valley and from Alabama eastward, but otherwise conditions were generally favorable with growth of plants mostly fair to very good.

Ranges, pastures, and livestock.—In most northern areas pastures and ranges were generally excellent during most of the month. The dry conditions in the southeast were relieved and pastures showed considerable improvement, while in the southwest fairly general rains were also of great benefit to the range. Drought continued in southern New Mexico, but elsewhere in the great western grazing districts ranges were mostly good. Livestock continued in satisfactory condition throughout the month and haying was favored generally, except for some local loss of hay due to rain.

Miscellaneous crops.—Potatoes did well generally with setting sweet potatoes finished in some southern portions at the close of the month. Truck crops were somewhat backward in the northeast and the northwest, but were otherwise doing well. Tobacco showed improvement during the month and at the close transplanting was well advanced in Wisconsin. Much sugar cane was lost by flooding in Louisiana, but where not flooded the crop was excellent. Sugar beets were making satisfactory advance with thinning progressing at the close of the month. Fruit showed variable advance, with heavy drop reported from some sections, but citrus showed improvement in Florida.